TO HER MOST CHRISTIAN MAIESTY CATERINA DE' MEDICI, MOTHER OF HIS MOST CHRISTIAN MAJESTY CHARLES IX KING OF FRANCE

Such was the renown of the sumptuous palace and the exquisite gardens ordered by the illustrious Cardinal from Ferrara, Hippolito, in the city of Tivoli that the all-mighty Emperor Maximilian wanted to obtain a drawing of it, as an example of the most perfect of its kind, even in comparison to those built in Antiquity. He desired that I be the one to make the aforesaid drawing and I longed to dedicate it to Her Majesty since I was aware of how the Cardinal during his lifetime was her devoted and affectionate servant and how she loved beautiful buildings and pleasant gardens. I pray that she kindly deigns to accept this little gift, and myself among her subjects and servants. With this prayer I humbly stoop to kiss her royal hand, praying that God preserve her in her happiness.
Rome, 8th day of April 1573.
Your humble subject and servant, Etienne Dupérac, Parisian

TO THOSE WHO LOVE AND DELIGHT IN SEEING LOVELY AND RARE THINGS BY ANTONIO LAFRERI

Greatly admirable is the site of the city of Tivoli where one can see how the course of the river Aniene, furiously storming down the mountains of Latium, has created inside the stone veins stupendous furrows and grottos which, with the passing of time and on account of its nature, has generated mineral deposits of various shapes so that in many places, frozen, these appear to be human figures or else animali, fruits, or other stupendous objects. Taking this into consideration, the illustrious Cardinal from Ferrara decided to alter the course of the waters and build an exquisite palace and garden, through which he caused the waters to flow, so that in the palace and in the garden there are lovely fountains as embellishment with miniature forests, labyrinths, herb gardens, and many other things which cannot be shown in drawings, since a huge volume would be necessary to show all of them. But following my love of perfection, I printed and annotated the most notable things to be seen so that all those who delight in such things may enjoy such a remarkable work.

1. The palace. the decoration of the palace, and the fountain inside it cannot be described herein. 2. The secret garden 3. The Unicorn Fountain. 4. Pavilion with four fountains from which water spouts. 5. Tennis court. 6. Palace stairs and in the center the Fountain of Leda. 7. The Fountain of Thetis. 8. Two fountains of Esculapius and Hygeia. 9. The Fountain of Arethusa. 10. The Fountain of Pandora. 11. The Fountain of Pomona. 12. The Fountain of Flora. 13. Pathway which crosses the whole garden along which there are three water pipes, one above the other, from which water spouts in different ways whereby creating wonderful effects. 14. The great fountain on top of which there are three colossals, one of the Sibyl Albunea with her son Melicertes, the others of the two rivers, the Erculaneo and the Aniene; all of which spout water into three huge basins that is then collected in the basin of a huge oval vase around which are ten nymphs holding urns from which water constantly pours, it too into the same vase. 15. The Fountain of Pegasus. 16. Two fountains of Bacchus. 17. Grotto of Venus, inside of which there is a fountain with a Venus in the center and on the sides four nude cupids who are pouring water from four vases. 18. Grotto of Diana, inside of which there are two fountains, one of Diana, the other of Pallas, with many other statues and exquisite mosaic decorations. 19. Large fountain representing Rome with the seven hills, aqueducts, temples, statues, and other embellishments, and on every side delightful fountains. 20. Fountain of the Emperors. 21. The Fountain of the Birds, which has numerous songbirds perched on bronze branches, who sing in their natural voices by means of the water. Then, as soon as an Owl, it too of bronze, appears, the birds stop singing and the owl starts to hoot. 22. Travertine stairs with bannisters on either side and plinths above each one from which spout jets of water in the form of vapor. 23. The Fountain of the Dragons with a jet of water which shooting into the air makes a noice like cannon fire. 24. The Fountain of the Goddess Nature. This fountain well deserves its nickname of fountian of marvels. Here an organ with admirable art, driven by the waters, plays by itself any madrigal tune one desires in four or five voices. There are many other things even more stupendous — I have not yet finished. 25. Grottos of the Sibyls. 26. Fountain of Antinous. 27 Fishponds divided into compartments. 28. Fishponds with conical spouts in the center imperceptibly exuding water. 29. Fountain of Neptune with a depiction of the god Oceanus. 30. Fountain of the Venus Cloacina. 31. The Fountain of Triton. 32. Labyrinths. 33. Herb garden. 34. The entranceway to the garden, which is not on the drawing, with two circles and two rustic fountains. 35. Lakes beyond the garden boundaries.